

PLEASE NOTE: Legislative Information **cannot** perform research, provide legal advice, or interpret Maine law. For legal assistance, please contact a qualified attorney.

## **An Act To Improve Efficiency in Communication in the Court System**

**Emergency preamble. Whereas,** acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

**Whereas,** for the purpose of improving the quality and timeliness of communication between the court and parties in judicial matters, the judicial branch is undertaking a project to provide text message notification of information regarding pending court cases; and

**Whereas,** it is important that this project be started as soon as possible; and

**Whereas,** in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

### **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

**Sec. 1. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and allocations are made.

#### **JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT**

##### **Courts - Supreme, Superior and District 0063**

Initiative: Provides funding for a Project Manager Associate position to oversee the acquisition, implementation, accuracy and maintenance of an electronic court notification system.

<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2019-20</b>	<b>2020-21</b>
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	1,000	1,000
Personal Services	\$111,000	\$114,000
<b>GENERAL FUND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$111,000</b>	<b>\$114,000</b>

##### **Courts - Supreme, Superior and District 0063**

Initiative: Provides funding to contract for an electronic court notification system. This includes one-time funding for a licensing fee and extra capacity for server storage and processing, as well as ongoing funding for maintenance and text message support.

<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2019-20</b>	<b>2020-21</b>
All Other	\$91,530	\$18,530
<b>GENERAL FUND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$91,530</b>	<b>\$18,530</b>

<b>JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT</b>		
<b>DEPARTMENT TOTALS</b>	<b>2019-20</b>	<b>2020-21</b>
<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>\$202,530</b>	<b>\$132,530</b>
<b>DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS</b>	<b>\$202,530</b>	<b>\$132,530</b>

**Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.

### **SUMMARY**

This bill provides funding to the judicial branch to allow it to develop and implement a text message notification system to provide information regarding pending court cases, such as location, calendar, case category and case type, to involved parties.